

1876

Board of Supervisor

Supervisors

Winslow Baker

Ben Keesling

John Chastek

Justice of the Peace

Er. R. Perkins

Arrison Lyons

Clerk

H. M. Vroman

Treasurer

A. K. Richards

Assessor

J. H. Empanger

Annual Meeting

March 14th, 1876

Levies:

- 6 mills for road purposes (*voted on April 14th*)
- \$100 for “Town purposes”

Liquor Licenses:

- Voted not to allow

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

1877

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors

Winslow Baker

Ben Keesling

Jo. Smetana

Justice of the Peace

D. M. Burwell

Clerk

D. H. Burwell

Treasurer

Geo. Burns

Assessor

J. H. Empange

Annual Meeting

March 13th, 1877

Levies:

- 6 mills for road purposes (*voted on April 13th*)
- \$200 for “Town purposes”

Liquor Licenses:

- Voted not to allow

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Other

- “Cattle to run at large”
- Sweeper to be purchased



1878

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisors

Winslow Baker
Ben Keesling
Jo. Smetana

Justice of the Peace

J. H. Empanger

Clerk

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer

Geo. Burnes

Assessor

R. W. Bartow

Constable

O. A. Burnes

Annual Meeting

March 12th, 1878

Levies:

- 5 mills for road purposes (*voted on April 13th*)
- \$100 for "Town purposes"

Liquor Licenses:

- Voted in favor of

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Other:

- "Plow to be purchased"
- "Cattle to run at large"

ANNUAL MEETING
March 12, 1878
Levy of 5 mills for road purposes voted by Board at April 13, 1878
Levy of \$100 for Town purposes.
7 Road Overseers appointed.
Plows to be purchased. Cattle to run at large. Voted in favor
of liquor licenses. (Photos from Minnetonka Historical Society)
Elected:
Winslow Baker)
B. F. Keesling) Supervisors
Jo Smetana)
J. H. Empanger, J. P.
D. M. Burwell, Minnetonka Clerk
Geo. Burnes, Treas.
R. W. Bartow, Asst.
O. A. Burnes, Constable

Road Overseers

Under Minnesota State Statute 1878, Section 1650, local townships were to appoint "overseers of highways" to **regulate their roads**. Their duties ranged from repairing the roads and collecting road taxes to registering liable road workers within their district. In compliance with this new statute, Minnetonka appointed its first seven road overseers at the annual town meeting in 1878.

OVERSEERS.
SEC. 1650. Duties.—The overseers of highways in each town shall and keep in order the roads within their respective districts; warn all from whom labor is due to work on highways, at such times and places as they may think proper; collect all fines and costs of the supervisors, and deliver election or appointment, a list, sub-



1879

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisors

Winslow Baker
John Jackson
Stephen Lyon

Justice of the Peace

O. F. Bryant Jr.

Clerk

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer

Geo. Burnes

Assessor

R. W. Bartow

Constable

F. L. Perkins

Annual Meeting

March 11th, 1879

Levies:

- 5 mills for road (*voted on April 24th*)
- \$150 for "Town purposes"

Liquor Licenses:

- "Not to be allowed."

Other:

- "Cattle to run at large"
- Each road district will obtain the money raised from delinquent tax.
- Resolution on the defalcation of Treasurer A. K. Richards

March 11, 1879
Levy of 5 m
Levy of \$150
Each road d
Resolution r
Cattle to ru
Elected: Wins
E. M. Burwell
F. L. Perkins,

CHAPTER 76.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE IMMIGRATION.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a State Board of Immigration which shall consist of the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Clerk of the Supreme Court and Dillon O'Brien.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Immigration, created by section one, (1) of this act, to publish or cause to be published a pamphlet treating of and describing the development and undeveloped resources of this State, and to do everything which in their judgment may enhance and encourage immigration into this State, and the said Board may have printed from time to time such numbers of said pamphlet in any language as may in their judgment be in the interest of the State.

Three members of the Board of Immigration shall constitute a quorum, and shall have authority to act on all matters brought before the Board.

The money hereby appropriated shall remain in the treasury of the State, subject to the order of the Board.

The members of the State Board of Immigration shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be compensated for their actual expenses.

It shall be the duty of said Board of Immigration to report to the State the amount of their actual expenses, and the results of their labors and proceedings to the State.

This act shall take effect after its passage. Approved March 7, 1879.

IMMIGRANTS

In 1879, the Minnesota state government implemented new laws to promote immigration to the state. The law created a **State Board of Immigration** and allotted funds of up to \$6,000. The board created promotional pamphlets in **multiple languages** and advertised the development potential of the state's rural areas.

Minnetonka greatly benefited from this law; over the next decade, immigrants arriving from **Bohemia**, the **German** states, the **Scandinavian** countries, **Ireland** and **Canada** increased the population of the town by almost **400** residents.

(Minnetonka Historical Society)





1880

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisors

Wm. S. Chower
John Jackson
B. F. Keesling

Justice of the Peace

O. F. Bryant Jr.
D. M. Burwell

Clerk

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer

Geo. Burnes

Assessor

J. Empanger

Annual Meeting

March 9th, 1880

Levies:

- 5 mills for road (*voted on April 27th*)
- \$200 for Town

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Other:

- "Cattle to run at large"
- \$50 accepted for the defalcation of Treasurer A. K. Richards.
- Board "authorizes to take for poor from the town fund."
- "Town Hall building voted expedient but voted tabled until 4 PM and not taken up."

ANNUAL MEETING

March 9, 1880

Levy of 5 mills for roads voted by Board April 27, 1880

Levy \$200 for Town.

Town accepts \$50 in full for defalcation of Treas. A. W. Richards

Board authorized to take for poor from Town Fund:

7 road overseers appointed.

Cattle to run at large. Town Hall building voted expedient
voted tabled un 4P.M. and not taken up.

Elected: Wm. S. Chower, B. F. Keesling, John A. Jackson, S.

D. M. Burwell, Clerk, J. Empanger, Assessor, Geo. Burns,

D. M. Burwell & O. F. Bryant, Justices, J. E. Perkins and

H. Cooper, Constables.

1880 Population (by census):

1,069

League of Women Voters of Minnetonka Village. Meet Minnetonka.





1881

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisors

Wm. S. Chower
John Jackson
B. F. Keesling

Clerk

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer

Geo. Burnes

Assessor

R. W. Bartow

Annual Meeting

March 8th, 1881

Levies:

- 5 mills for road (*voted on April 19th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$300 for Poor

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Liquor Licenses:


- “Allowed.”

Other:

- “Cattle to run at large”

Election Date:

November 2nd



March 8, 1881
April 19, 1881 Board voted 5 mill road levy.
Levy \$800 for Town purposes, \$300 for Poor. Total \$500
7 road overseers apptg. Cattle to run at large. Liquor allowed.
Elected: W. S. Chower, John Jackson, B. F. Keesling, Supervisors,
D. M. Burwell, Clerk, Geo. Burns, Treas., R. W. Bartow, Assessor
W. Haglund, C. C.

Dog Licensing

In 1881, a new law required the licensing of dogs, in hopes of protecting the sheep and other livestock kept by many local families. The law charged a fee of \$1.00 for males and \$2.00 for females.

A list of all the dogs licensed for the year was to be posted in several places around Minnetonka, and a copy was given to the constable. This way, a resident could see if his neighbor had licenses for their dogs.

League of Women Voters of Minnetonka Village, *Meet Minnetonka*, Minnesota, 1958. Print.



(Photos from Minnetonka Historical Society)

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Wm. S. Chowen

John Jackson

B. F. Keesling

J.P –

D. M. Burwell

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Assessor –

R. W. Bartow

Constables –

S. R. Churchill

J. H. Soukup

Annual Meeting

March 14th, 1882

Levies:

- 5 mills road tax (*voted on April 26th*)
 - \$150 for Town
 - \$100 for Poor
- Election Date:

Election Date:

November 1st

ANNUAL MEETING
1988

March 34, 1882

Board voted 5 mills road tax at meeting April 26, 1882
\$150 for Town, \$100 for Poor

Levy \$250, --\$150 for town, \$100 for
established.

Two pounds established.
Chowen.

Two pounds established.
Elected: . . . Chowen, John R. Jackson, B. F. Keesling, Sup
S. Frear, Clerk-R. W. Bartow. Assessor

D. M. Burwell J.P. - W. S. Frear, Clerk.
S. H. Soukup Constable.

Town Pounds

In **1882**, two town pounds were established in Minnetonka. A pound master was elected for each establishment. His duties were to impound any animals found “running at large” against the law. **John Shilzer** was elected pound master at the new pound at **Wayzata**, although he was replaced later that year with **Thomas Wise**. The other pound was established at **Minnetonka Mills** with **W. S. Frear** as master. These pounds were financed by fees the owners of the impounded animals were to pay when they came to retrieve them. Horses, mules, asses, and cattle cost 10 cents a day; hogs, 5 cents; and sheep and lamb, 20 cents. If an animal remained in the pound for more than 15 days, it was then sold at a public auction. As more and better fences were built, the need for the pounds diminished, until they finally disappeared in **1902**.



SEP. 1976

To be placed in pound.— Within twenty-four hours after the seizure of any such animal, the owner thereof shall appear before the appraisers, and fifty cents justice's fees, and the costs of the proceedings, shall be paid, and the animal shall be returned to the owner; and if the owner does not so appear, the animal shall be sold at public sale, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied to the payment of the costs of the proceedings, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner; and if the owner does not appear, the animal shall be sold at public sale, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied to the payment of the costs of the proceedings, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner; and if the owner does not appear, the animal shall be sold at public sale, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied to the payment of the costs of the proceedings, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner.

32), as amended 1885, ch. 120. Amendment inserted
ing town or city within the same county." 31 M. 453.

by poundmaster — Notice of.—The poundmaster of the county of Kent do hereby give notice that he will sell such beasts, or so many of them as are in the pound at least three days' notice of such sale, and at three of the most public places where such sale is to be made.

ad, that the poundmaster, or the person keeping the pound, shall provide with sufficient and appropriate food, and take care that the same shall all be paid therefor as part of the fees and charges to be made.

(Photos from Minnetonka Historical Society)



1883

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

John Jackson
B. F. Keesling
E. H. Eidam

J.P -

Wm. Hoagland

Clerk -

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer -

Geo. Burns

Assessor -

J. H. Empanger

Constables -

Fred Souba
Jo. Locker

Annual Meeting

March 13th, 1883

Levies:

- 5 mill road (*voted on April 13th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$200 for Poor

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Liquor Licenses:

- "Voted out."

Other:

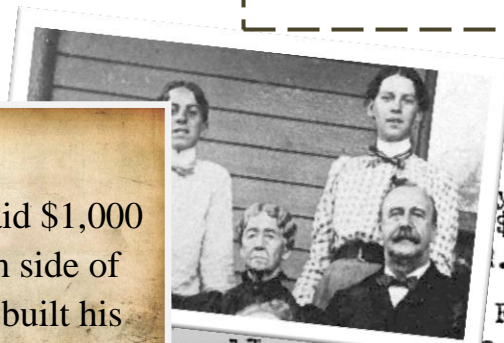
- Two pounds to be maintained.

Election Date:

October 31st

The Burwell House

In **1883**, Charles H. **Burwell** paid \$1,000 for a five acre site on the north side of **Minnehaha Creek**, where he built his house.



y at April 13, 1883 meeting.
\$200

. Seven road overseers appointed.

F. Keesling, E. H. Eidam, Supervisors
Burwell, Clerk-Geo. Burns, Treas-J. H. Empanger, Assessor-

RIGGED ELECTIONS

In 1882, **W. S. Frear**, a younger Minnetonka resident, decided to get involved in town politics. He ran for **town clerk** against longtime position holder **D. M. Burwell**, and won.

D.M Burwell's son, C. H. Burwell, who managed the flour mill, was upset about his father's defeat. The following year, he ordered all the mill employees to campaign for his father or else **lose their job**.

Not surprisingly, D. M. Burwell **was reelected** clerk the following year. He continued to serve until 1887, when he asked W. S. Frear to succeed him because he considered him "well qualified for public office."





1884

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

John Jackson
B. F. Keesling
E. H. Eidam

J.P. –

Henry Souba

Clerk –

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer –

Geo. Burns

Assessor –

A. W. Bartow

Annual Meeting

March 11th, 1884

Levies:

- 5 mills voted for road tax (*voted on April 24th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$25 for “Incidental”

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Other:

- Two pounds to be maintained.

Election Date:

October 29th

Wm. Boardman, U.S. - Fred Souba &
March 11, 1884
5 mills voted for road tax at
Levy of \$525 voted-Town \$200,
Two pounds to be maintained. &

See 1881 Sup't, pp. 42, 43.

SECTION.

1. Punishment of crimes committed outside of reservation.

§ 1. Crimes committed outside of reservation. If any Indian enters the limits of this state, or crosses the boundary line of his reservation, and destroys any property, real or personal, of this state, or commits any crime against the person or inhabitant of this state, he shall be subject to the same punishment as if committed within the limits of this state.

CHAPTER XXV. INDIANS.

SECTION.

2. Not to leave reservation without passport.
3. County officers to remove Indians.

NATIVE AMERICANS

State law forbade Native Americans belonging to any tribe from leaving their reservation

“...without having a **passport** from the superintendent or agent of Indian affairs, or from the officer of the United States commanding the nearest military fort on the frontier.”

The Minnetonka town **constable** was to “**remove** any Indian from lands, settlements, or claims belonging to the **white inhabitants**,” if Native Americans entered the town limits.

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

John R. Jackson

B. F. Keesling

W. S. Frear

J.P –

Wm. Hagland

J. A. Barts

Clerk –

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer –

Geo. Burns

Assessor –

A. W. Bartow

Constables –

R. Churchill

F. S. Bartow

Annual Meeting

March 10th, 1885

Levies

- 4 mills road tax (*voted on April 25th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$400 for Poor

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed
- Reports to be required from now on.

Other:

- Pounds established at Minnetonka Mills.
- “Posting places set forth.”

ANNUAL MEETING

March 10, 1885

4 mill levy voted by Board at April 25, 1885 meeting

Levy \$600---own \$200, Poor \$400

Walter Baker allowed \$3.00 for wolf. Bounty on wolves s

Pound established at Minnetonka Mills.

Reports to be required henceforth from overseers of ro

8 road overseers elected.

Elected: John R. Jackson, R. ^H, Keesling, W. S. Frear

M. Burwell. Clerk-Geo. Burns. Treas.-R. W. Bartow.

Paid Bounties

Throughout most of its early history, Minnesota was home to a heavy population of wolves. **Minnesota Statute 1891, Section 2060** provided bounties in hopes of controlling this growing population. In **1885**, Minnetonka appointed its first state- funded bounty, **Walter Baker**. Under state law, Baker received \$3.00 for each “head of the **wolf so killed**, with the ears and scalp thereon entire, within twenty days after such wolf has been killed.”

SEC. 2060. **Bounties for killing.**— Any person who shall kill any wolf in this state between November first and May first in any year, shall be entitled to receive a bounty of five dollars, (\$5), and for any wolf killed in this state in any year between May first and November first, shall be entitled to receive a bounty of three dollars, (\$3); and any person claiming such bounty shall produce the head of the wolf so killed, with the ears and scalp thereon entire, within thirty days after such wolf has been killed, to the county clerk of the county in which such wolf has been killed, to the county auditor, or the clerk of the court, and shall make oath or affirmation before the clerk of the court, that the wolf was killed within such county within twenty (20) days, and deliver to such officer the head of such

Minnetonka Historica
Society.



1886

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

J. R. Jackson
B. F. Keesling
W. S. Frear

Clerk –

D. M. Burwell

Treasurer –

Geo. Burns

Annual Meeting

March 9th, 1886

Levies

- 5 mills road tax (*voted on April 24th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$25 for Incidental
- \$440 for Road

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Other:

- Pounds continued at Minnetonka Mills.

Election Date:

October 28th

March 9, 1886

5 mill road, levy voted by board April 24, 1886

Levy \$925-- own \$200, Poor, \$300, Incidental, \$25. Sp. Road \$400

8 Road Overseers Apptd. Pound continues at Mtk. Mills

Elected: J. R. Jackson, B. F. Keesling, W. S. Frear, Supervisors
D. M. Burwell, Clerk, Geo. Burnes, Treasurer.

Minnetonka Historical
Society.



First section crew, all Swedes, when Great Northern R. R. was built through Minnetonka in 1867. Left to right Peterson, Halverson, O. J. Hakman, Boss, Halverson. Most section men were Swedes.

1887

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

J. R. Jackson
Geo. Ley
Henry Souba

J.P. -

D. M. Burwell

Clerk -

W. S. Frear

Treasurer -

Geo. Burns

Assessor -

J. Empanger

Constables -

Fred Eidam
C. Burnes

Annual Meeting

March 8th, 1887

Levies

- 4 mills road tax (*voted on May 5th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$200 for Poor
- \$400 for Road Improvement

Pounds

- Pound abolished at Minnetonka Mills.
- Pound established at Scott Blacksmith shop/

ANNUAL MEETING

March 8, 1887

4 mill road levy voted by Board May 5, 1887

Levy \$800-Poor \$200, Town \$200, Road Improvement \$400

Three posting places named, Road Overseers named.

Pound at Mtk. Mills abolished, one established at Scott Blacksmith shop.

Elected: J. R. Jackson

W. S. Frear, Clerk-Geo.

D. M. Burwell, J.P.-F.

March 12, 1888

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In 1887, Minnesota renewed a statute that permitted **women** over 21 in townships like Minnetonka to **vote for** their local county superintendent of schools.

1705 RIGHT OF WOMEN TO VOTE FOR COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS

***§ 107. Women—Qualification to vote for county superintendent of schools.**

That any woman of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, belonging either of the classes mentioned in section one of article seven of the constitution of the state of Minnesota, who shall have resided in the United States one year, and in this state for four months next preceding any election at which a county superintendent of schools is elected, shall be entitled to vote for county superintendent of schools at such election, in the election at which she shall at the time have been for ten days a resident.



1888

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Jr. R. Jackson
Geo. Ley
Henry Souba

J.P. –

A. M. Close

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

G. Burns

Assessor –

F. S. Bartow

Constables –

Charles Hamilton

Annual Meeting

March 13th, 1888

Levies

- 2 ½ mills (*voted on April 18th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$200 for Road

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed.
 - Edward Eidam

Other

- “Notice postings set”

Election Dates:

February 21st,
March 5th

March 13, 1888

Board voted 2½ mills at metg. April 18, 1888
Levy \$900---Town \$200, Poor \$300
8 road overseers appointed. Pound Master appointed.
postings set.
Elected: Jr. R. Jackson, Geo. Ley, Henry Souba, W. S. Frear, Clerk, G. Burns, Treasurer, F. S. Bartow, Assessor, A. M. Close, J.P.

W.S. FREAR

Early Minnetonka resident W. S. Frear holds the record for **longest official town service** in Minnetonka. He served 30 years in various local posts, including road overseer, Justice of the Peace, clerk, supervisor, and board chairman.

On May 21st, the **Board of Health** was created, with **Dr. Tibbets** of Wayzata as the first appointee.



Minnetonka Historical Society



1889

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Jr. R. Jackson
Geo. Ley
Henry Souba

J.P. –

A. M. Close

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

G. Burns

Assessor –

F. S. Bartow

Constables –

Charles Hamilton
F. P. Eidams

Annual Meeting

March 12th, 1889

Levies

- 3 mill levy for roads (*voted on April 26th*)
- \$225 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$400 for Road

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Pounds

- Pound Master elected
 - Edward Eidam

Election Dates:

October 16th, 23rd, 20th
February 26th

[S. F. No. 406.]
AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
BY PROVIDING FOR INSPECTION
OF CATTLE, SHEEP AND SWINE BEFORE SLAUGHTER
FOR HUMAN FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTORS

In these times, meat was provided to residents by local farmers who did their own butchering and selling. They were not always very careful about the **sanitation** and quality of their meat. To better control this situation, Minnesota passed a **law** in **1889** requiring that “cattle, sheep, and swine... from which such meats are taken **shall have been inspected** *in that state* before being slaughtered.”

In compliance with this law, the **Minnetonka Town Board** appointed seven inspectors on May 17th, who were paid by the owners of the livestock 25 cents for the first animal, and 10 cents for each thereafter.

The law was declared unconstitutional on the grounds of violation of the interstate commerce clause by the **U.S Supreme Court** a year later in **Minnesota v. Barber**, after the meat complained of inconveniences.

Minnesota v. Barber, 136 U.S 313 (1890)



1890

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

J. R. Jackson

Geo. Ley

Henry Souba

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

S. Smith

Assessor –

J. H. Empanger

Annual Meeting

March 11th, 1890

Levies

- 4 mill road levy (*voted on May 30th*)
- \$225 for Town
- \$400 for Poor
- \$200 for Road

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Pounds

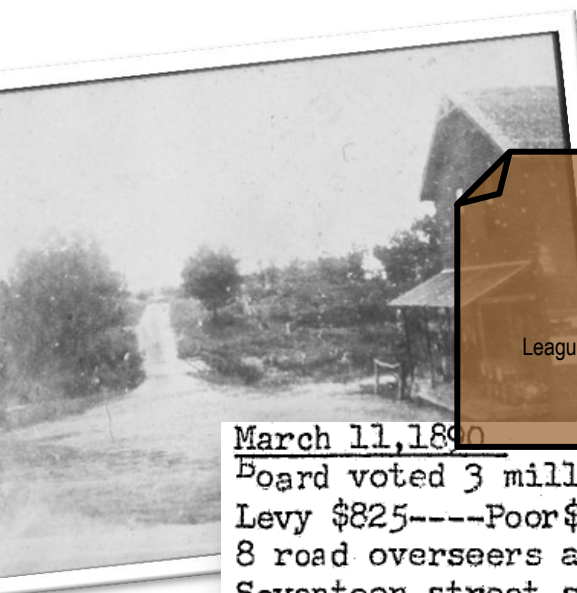
- Pound Master appointed

Other

- 17 street signs authorized

Election Dates:

October 15th, 21st, 28th



1890 Population (by census):

1,441

League of Women Voters of Minnetonka Village, *Meet Minnetonka*, Minnesota, 1958. Print.

March 11, 1890

Board voted 3 mill road levy at meeting April 30, 1890

Levy \$825---Poor \$400, Town \$225, Road \$200

8 road overseers and 1 pound master appointed.

Seventeen street signs authorized.

Elected: J. R. Jackson, Geo. Ley, Henry Souba, Supervisors-

W. S. Frear, Clerk-N. S. Smith, Treas.-J. H. Empanger, Assessor

1891

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

August Anderson
Geo. Ley
Geo. Burns

J.P. –

A. M. Close

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

N. S. Smith

Assessor –

J. H. Empanger

Constables –

A. N. Nash

Annual Meeting

March 10th, 1891

Levies

- 3 mill road levy (*voted on March 26th*)
- \$250 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$200 for Road

ANNUAL MEETING **March 10, 1891**

Board voted 3 mill road levy at meeting
Levy \$750-----Road \$200, Town \$250

Elected: Geo. Ley, August Anderson
W. S. Frear, Clerk, A. M. Close, J.

N. S. Smith, Treasurer-A.

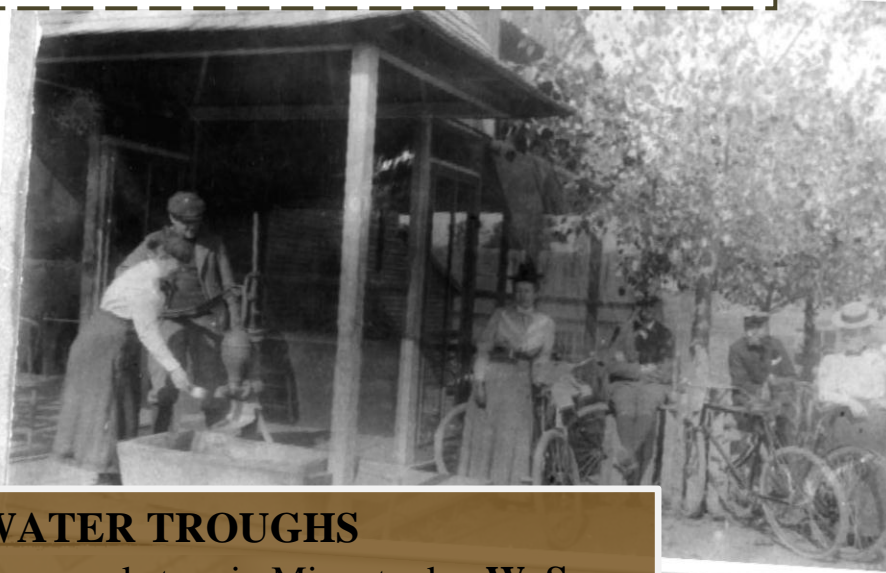
PUBLIC WATER TROUGHS

At a roadside beside his general store in Minnetonka, **W. S. Frear** maintained a public water trough that **pumped water** from a hand pump. The trough was free for use by Minnetonka residents.

Under a **Minnesota statute** intended to encourage such public water facilities, any person “maintaining a public watering trough beside the highway for horses and carriages is entitled to by the town of **\$5.00 each year** from the town highway fund.”

Unfortunately for W.S Frear, Minnetonka never chose to enforce this statute, and there is no evidence he ever received any money for his pump.

Minnetonka Historical Society.



1892

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

J. R. Jackson
John Christy
C. Miller

Clerk –

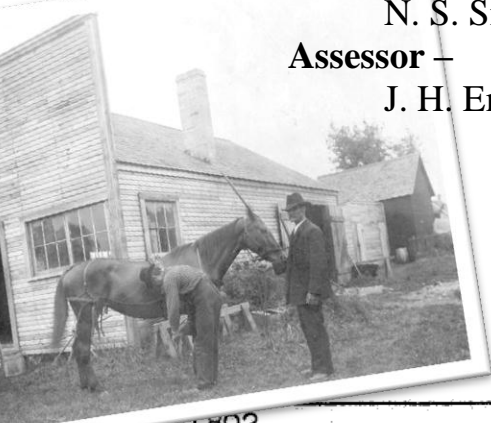
W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

N. S. Smith

Assessor –

J. H. Empanger



Annual Meeting

March 8th, 1892

Levies

- 3 mill road levy (*voted on March 15th*)
- \$350 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$400 for Road

Election Dates:

October 19th

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed

Other

- “Compensation of Treasurer fixed.”
- “Vote moving polls to Hopkins and Minneapolis respectively.”

March 8, 1892

Board voted 3 mill road levy March 15, 1892

Levy \$1050---Poor \$300, Town \$350, Road \$400

Compensation of Treasurer fixed.

8 road overseers and a pound master appointed

Vote on moving polls to Hopkins and Minneapolis respectively.

Elected: J. R. Jackson, John Christy, C. Miller, Supervisors=

W. S. Frear

THE NATIONALITY ISSUE

Many Minnetonka residents were recently arrived immigrants from **Europe** or their decedents. By the end of the 19th century, these men had developed an interest in running for town office. Fearing that the increasing number of foreigners might “**take over**” the town government, a few Americans, including the Burwells and W. S. Chowen, began devising a scheme to limit the **electoral rights** of foreigners.

When local Bohemian residents heard about this, they encouraged **John Cristy**, a red haired **Swedish** farmer living near Oak Knoll, to run for town supervisor. With the widespread support of Bohemian residents, he won the election in **1892**.

1893

Board of Supervisors

No record.

NOTEWORTHY RESIDENTS

William Streeter Chowen was originally New York state in 1826. After moving to Pennsylvania and Virginia to work in the lumber business, he **settled in Minnetonka** as a progressive **farmer**. He helped build the first school house in Minnetonka. He served numerous times on the Minnetonka **Town Board**, as Supervisor and Assessor.

In 1857, Chowen was elected to the first legislature of the state as a Republican, serving until 1859. During his time in the **State House of Representatives**, he introduced the Agricultural School Bill, and pushed for an "agricultural land grant for college purposes." Both bills were passed. In 1864, Chowen enlisted in the Co. F. Eleventh Minn. Inf., with the rank of **Sergeant**. He mustered out at **Fort Snelling** on June 26th, 1865.

Chowen married **Mary M. Frear** on May 25, 1865. They had six children together. In 1871, he was named Trustee of the newly opened **Groveland Cemetery**. In 1895, he was **elected pound master** of the newly opened pound at Groveland, near his home. Not finding the job worthwhile, he resigned on May 13th of that year, and the pound was closed.

William Chowen died in 1912. He and 12 of his relatives are buried at **Groveland Cemetery**.

(History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis, 1881)

(2008 Groveland Cemetery Association)

Annual Meeting

March 14th, 1893

Levies

- 1 mill levy for road tax (*voted on April 24th*)
- \$200 for Town
- \$150 for Poor

Road Overseers:

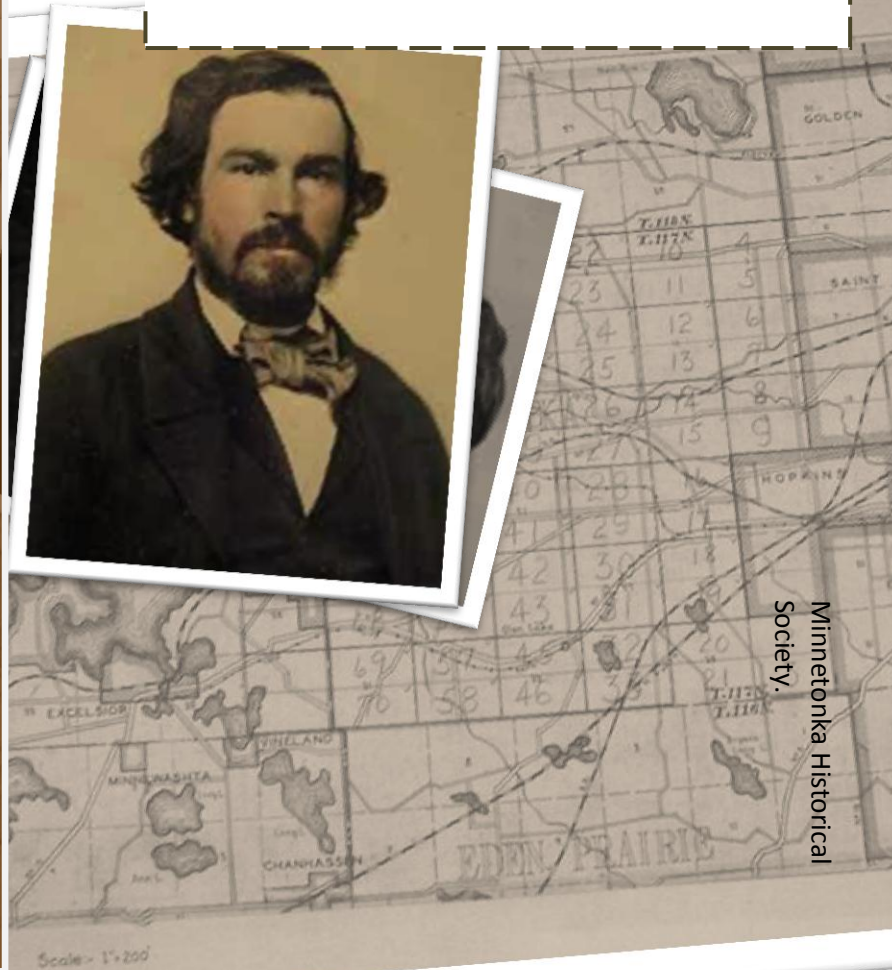
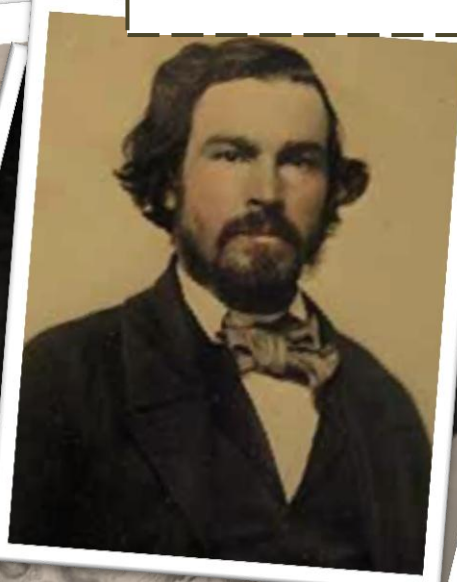
- Wendel Belchert appointed.

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed

Other

- "Places of posting notices agreed upon."



Minnetonka Historical
Society



1894

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

John Feltl
Winslow Cherveney
Edward Bren

J. P. -

Frank Bren
Winslow Dvorak Jr.

Clerk -

John Kocherah

Treasurer -

Frank Bren

Assessor -

J. E. Pavelka

Constables -

John Andre
Joseph Dvorak

Annual Meeting

March 13th, 1894

Levies

- 1 mill road levy (*voted on May 24th*)
- \$50 for Town
- \$50 for Road and Bridge

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed

Other

- Polls moved to school house district 97
- 3 posting places determined.

Election Date:

October 15th

ELECTIONS

On October 15th, 1894, Minnetonka held elections for the positions on the **Town Board**. Typically, current members of the board acted as the **election judges**. This year, one of the board members declined to act as judge because he believed it unfair that all three members were of the **same party**.

MINNETONKA TOWNSHIP

In 1892, Minnetonka Township voted to incorporate into a village form of government. However, in 1894 the State Supreme Court ruled that the area was not eligible to be a village and it reverted back to the status of a town governed by an elected Board of Supervisors.

1895

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Luther Bartow
John Christy
Jo Smentana

J. P. –

George Ley
Jo. Makousky

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

G. D. Burns

Assessor –

W. S. Chowen

Constables –

Sam Sewell
Arthur Squires

Annual Meeting

March 12th, 1895

Levies

- 2 mill road levy (*voted on April 8th*)
- \$300 for Town
- \$300 for Poor and Incidental
- \$600 for Road and Bridge

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed.
 - W. S. Chowen (resigned 3 months later)
- Another pound to be re-established in Sec. 17 or 18

Other

- “No funds against late Village of Mtka to be paid by Township of Mtka.”

On May 26th, 1895, the **St. Paul Globe** published a full page **article** about Minnetonka. It began as follows;

“**Minnetonka!** There’s magic in that name. The very mention of it suggests **cool breezes** and strings of fishes, brown skin, hard muscles, and freckles. Nature in the distribution of her favor was very generous to Minnesota. ..In a setting of purest green, she has placed such priceless jewels as our **beautiful lake...**”

Minnesota Historical Society

April 25th, 1895

“*They are taking down the old mill at Minnetonka. It was there before I was born.*”

From the diary of Mr. George Baker, Minnetonka resident.

1896

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

C. D. Burns
Arthur Squires
Joseph Smentana

J. P. -

M. Pearce
C. Greenly

Clerk -

W. S. Frear

Treasurer -

C. Greenly

Assessor -

W. S. Chowen

Annual Meeting

March 10th, 1896

Levies

- 2 mill road levy (*voted on March 20th*)
- \$300 for Town
- \$300 for Poor and Incidental
- \$800 for Road and Bridge

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed.

Other

- "All road money received from delinquent tax to be returned to respective district."
- Sign posts ordered
- Places for posting notices determined.



ANNUAL MEETING March 10, 1896

Board voted 2 mill road levy at meeting March 20, 1896
Levy \$1400---Town, \$300, Poor & Incidental, \$300, Rd. \$800
7 road overseers appointed. One poundmaster.
Places for posting notices determined. Sign posts ordered.
All road money received from delinquent tax to be returned to
respective district.
Elected: C. D. Burnes, Joseph Smentana, Arthur Squires, Supervisor
W. S. Frear, Clerk=C. Greeley, Treas.-W. S. Chowen, Assessor.-
M. Pearce & C. Greeley, J.P.

1897

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Wm. Dobson
Frank Miller
Joseph Smentana

J. P. -

J. R. Jackson

Clerk -

W. S. Frear

Treasurer -

G. D. Burns

Assessor -

W. S. Chowen

Constables -

C. O. Sewell

Annual Meeting

March 19th, 1897

Levies

- 3 mill road levy (*voted on March 17th*)
- \$300 for Town
- \$300 for Poor and Incidental
- \$600 for Road and Bridge
- Town Clerk instructed to deduct one third from all road taxes levied on account of excessive tax paid for two years.

Road Overseers:

- Seven appointed
- Town Board to buy road grader.

Other

- Delinquent taxed from several districts to be expended in respective districts.
- Board to make treasurer produce accounts and the full amount of cash before relinquishing office.



March 9, 1897
Board voted 3 mill road tax on March 17, 1897
Levy, \$1200--Town \$300, Poor, \$300, Road \$600
7 road overseers apptd.
Town Clerk instructed to deduct 1/3 from all road taxes levied
on account of excessive tax paid for two years.
Town Board to buy road grader.
Delinquent taxes from several districts to be expended in
respective districts.



1898

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Wm. Dobson
F. F. Miller
John Chastek

J. P. -

F. J. Hylin
Bysom Sutherland

Clerk -

W. S. Frear

Treasurer -

C. Greenly

Assessor -

W. S. Chowen

Constables -

C. O. Sewell

Annual Meeting

March 8th. 1898

Levies

- 2 mill road levy (*voted on March 18th*)
- \$300 for Town
- \$300 for Poor
- \$600 for Road and Bridge

Road Overseers:

- Eight appointed

Pounds

- Pound Master appointed.
-



ANNUAL
March

At a meeting March 18, 1898, Board voted 3 mill road levy
Levy \$1300---Town \$300, Poor \$400, Road \$600
8 overseers and One poundmaster apptd.

Elected: Wm. Dobson, F. F. Miller, John Chastek, Supervisors-
W. S. Frear, Clerk-C. Greeley, Treas-W. S. Chowen, Assessor-
F. J. Hylin & Bysom Sutherland, J. P.--C. O. Sewell, Constable



1899

Board of Supervisors

Supervisors-

Wm. Dobson
F. F. Miller
John M. Chastek

Clerk –

W. S. Frear

Treasurer –

C. Greenly

Annual Meeting

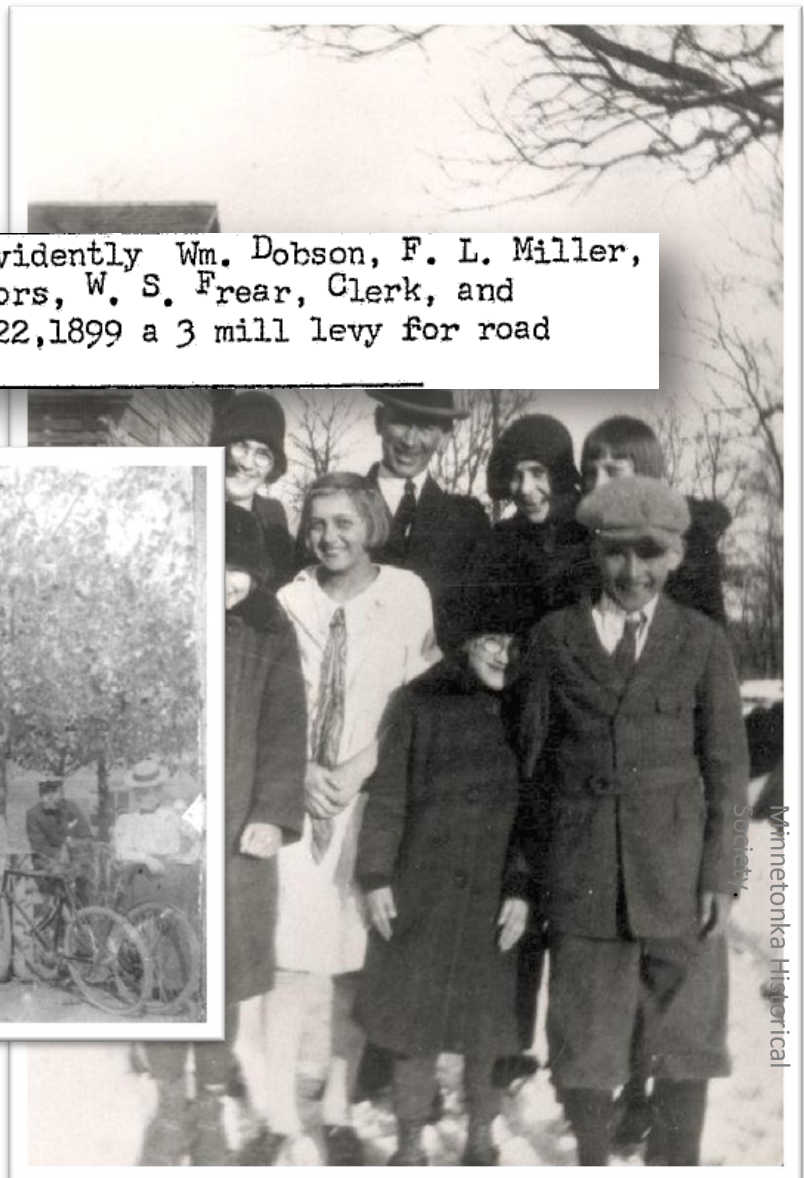
March 22nd, 1899

Levies

- 3 mill road levy

NO RECORD OF ANNUAL MEETING.

No record Annual Mtg. 1899. Evidently Wm. Dobson, F. L. Miller, John M. Chastey were supervisors, W. S. Frear, Clerk, and C. Greeley, Treasurer. March 22, 1899 a 3 mill levy for road purposes voted.



Winnepetka Historical Society